

STORIES OF the INAUGURALS.

By MARY S. LOCKWOOD.

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William Henry Harrison.

"If this State should go for Tip, Oh, what would Matilda do? He'd run his horse at Washington, for 'Tippecanoe' and Tyler, too. And with them we'd beat little Van; Van, Van is a used-up man. And with them we'd beat little Van."

The contest before the people in 1840 was a long and bitter one. Nothing of the kind had ever equalled it in the country. The hard times had brought about a conviction of federalism and the people clamored for a change.

In the Harrison Convention, which was held December 3, 1839, Harrison received the nomination over Henry Clay and Gen. Scott.

Notwithstanding Gen. Harrison's standing in the country, he having held many official positions of trust and honor, he was dubbed a "worthy old country gentleman from Ohio."

This "worthy old country gentleman" was a son of Benjamin Harrison, of Virginia, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

He first joined the army as Ensign, at the age of 19, under St. Clair, and was in the war with the Western Indians. In 1793 he was made Captain, and placed in command of Fort Washington, on the site of the present city of Cincinnati.

This fort was laid out on grounds owned by John Cleve Symmes, whose daughter Capt. Harrison married.

In 1797 he resigned his commission, and was appointed Secretary of the Territory Northwest of the Ohio from which, in 1798, he was chosen a Delegate to Congress.

When the Territory was divided he was appointed, in 1801, Governor of the new Territory of Indiana, and there he embraced the territory of which came the States of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

He had many encounters with the Indians, and it was during this campaign, after the unsuccessful attack of the Indians on his camp at Tippecanoe, that he received the sobriquet of "Tippecanoe."

In 1812 he was appointed to the command of the Northwest frontier, with a commission as Brigadier-General, and was afterward promoted to the rank of Major-General.

In 1816 he was elected a member of Congress from the Cincinnati District, in which body he sat three years. In 1819 he was elected State Senator, and in 1824 a United States Senator.

He was made chairman of the Military Committee. In 1828 he was appointed Minister to Colombia, but was recalled at Jackson's accession to the Presidency.

This running sketch of a most remarkable life has been given to show to what depths of glory will try to consign a man. No sooner had the news of his nomination for President gone abroad than appeared in one of the opposition papers in Baltimore a long harangue belittling the candidate and warning the voters to elect a man who would not be a log-cabin door in Ohio; give him a barrel of hard cider and a corn-cob pipe, and I will assure you that he will spend his days there, smoking his life away."

This was an evil word spoken without counting the cost. It proved to be the great electrifying appeal. The wires pulled "set the ball rolling" with enthusiasm knew no bounds. Men laid aside their occupations; the whole population seemed in motion. A monster mass-meeting was held at Ft. Meigs, and many of the great orators of the day were there. As the town began to fill up with visitors never was there such a spectacle presented in any political demonstration. The whole Nation had lent its aid in behalf of the monster meeting. Early in the day the processions began to arrive, bands and martial music filled the air; but the unique feature of the whole affair was the log cabin and the barrels of hard cider placed upon trucks, and forming part of the procession, which was five miles long. Tippecanoe and hard cider were vociferously sung. The Harrison emblem, log cabins and corn-cobs were everywhere displayed.

A hundred thousand people, it was estimated, were present at the meeting. There was one of the orators of the day said, in looking over the vast multitude: "Behold this picture! The very mountains have sent their warriors to the valleys their streams, and in the avalanche of the people is here!"

Men like Webster, Crittenden, Ewing entered with enthusiasm into the cousin campaign, and drank the health of their Presidential candidate in hard cider!

There was scarcely a town or a hamlet that did not during the campaign get up its log-cabin procession and mass-meetings. Excitement had never run so high. The result was a complete victory for the Whigs.

It was a grand jubilee in Alexandria in November in honor of the election of Gen. William Henry Harrison.

Another of Virginia's sons had been given the highest place in the gift of the people, and the children of the "Fathers of Presidents" assembled to do him honor.

The freedom of the city was given to over 2,000 visitors. There was a procession, and a grand ball at the Market Square, in which were 19 young girls. Each carried the flag of a victorious State. "Welcome" was placarded on every house, and the doors thrown open to strangers and guests.

Mr. George Washington Parke Custis addressed the crowd in Market Square, commencing with "Friends and fellow-citizens, and most patriotic Americans, the adopted son of Washington, whose hair was white with the snows of many winters, was very enthusiastic over the "Glories second revolution."

This meeting was a counterpart of what took place all through the States. The President-elect left his home in North Bend soon after the electoral college was taken, en route for Washington.

A graphic account of this journey is related by Mrs. Eaton. She is the sister of Ex-President Ben Harrison, and was honored with an invitation to accompany the President-elect to Washington. She was a young girl, but recollects vividly the floating ice that impeded their way up the Ohio River. With great difficulty they reached Pittsburgh. There they found the snow so deep, the roads so hard, that they reluctantly turned their faces homeward, leaving the President and the rest of the party to make their way by stage as best they could.

When they reached Baltimore great preparations had been made to extend a royal welcome, and no invitation to accompany the President comparable to that given by the people of Baltimore on the occasion of the entry of the newly-elected President, William Henry Harrison. In fact, it was one of those complete overturns of public opinion that we so often see in American politics.

Gen. Harrison was received in Washington with great demonstration by Mayor Seaton and the people at City Hall.

It was a rainy day when he arrived at the depot, yet he walked with his hat in his hand accompanied by an immense concourse of people. This was in February. He took a short trip to his old home in Virginia before the inauguration. The morning of the 4th of March, 1841, was ushered in by the salute of 25 guns. A carriage, drawn by four horses, preceded by the Whigs of Baltimore, was in readiness for the President. The procession formed, and moved to the quarters of Gen. Harrison, but the General preferred to ride on horseback. He mounted a spirited white charger, and his venerable, erect figure made a fine appearance.

Two of his aids rode at his side—Col. Todd and Maj. Hunt, who were with him in the battle of the Thames. There was an escort of mounted marshall.

The civil procession was in keeping with the processions of the campaign. There were Tippecanoe Clubs from Virginia and Maryland. Many of the clubs had mounted on wheels log cabins decked with inscriptions, cider-barrels and corn-cobs.

To represent industries a power-loom from a factory at Laurel, Md., with operators, was in the procession.

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never crossed the Wabash again with hostile intent.

After this battle Gen. Harrison removed his family to Cincinnati. He subsequently made his home at South Bend, 15 miles below Cincinnati, on the Ohio. Mrs. Harrison always had a private tutor for her children. Schools were very scarce in that new and unsettled country.

When Gen. Harrison was first nominated for the Presidency, in 1836, it was greatly at Mrs. Harrison's annoyance, and she at heart was glad at his defeat.

At the next campaign, when he was elected, it brought no sense of exultation to Mrs. Harrison. She was grateful to her countrymen for the respect and trust manifested in her husband, and that he had been vindicated in spite of his traducers; but she looked forward to a life in the Executive Mansion with many misgivings, and heroically determined to take up this duty, as she had many another in her checked life. She was a woman by birth and education was well equipped for all the demands of such a position. She was never a robust woman, and in February, when the President-elect was to leave for Washington, her physician forbade her undertaking the journey in such inclement weather.

Mrs. Jane F. Harrison, the widow of

the late President, died at her home in North Bend, Ohio, on the 25th of February, 1893, at the age of 90 years.

On the evening of the 25th of February, 1893, in her 90th year, she died, and was buried in her husband's grave at North Bend. This couple, who for half a century lived for their country and in its service, through privations, hardships and many disappointments, sleep on the banks of the peaceful Ohio.

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give up the rest of the journey on account of the snow and coldness of travel.

At this time Gen. Harrison was 62 years of age, and his health was failing. He had been a member of the family in which she resided since a brief leave of absence. The day of his departure arrived, and he left for Washington, leaving his wife and children in the hands of his grandmother to take what he supposed to be his last farewell in this life, as she was then confined to her bed with a severe illness. She received him with great affection, and in reply to his expressions of regret at leaving her she said: "Oh, no, my son, your country needs your services; I do not go and discharge your duty faithfully and fearlessly. I feel that my prayers in your behalf will be heard and that you will be returned in safety. And yet, perhaps, I do not feel as much comfort as I should have in the thought of you so often with your grandfather under similar circumstances, and he was always returned to me in safety, that I feel that it will be the same with you."

The young officer did return in safety, after many hard-fought battles.

The letter concludes thus: "My husband, Dr. Eaton, one of her physicians, being in the house and in the room, and would often say to me: 'I never met a more entertaining person than your grandfather. I could sit for hours and listen to her conversation.'"

"Such is not often said by a man in the prime of life of an old lady nearly 90 years old."

"Since then he has joined her in her Heavenly home."

A beautiful life ended when Anna Symmes Harrison closed her eyes on earth. She had lived a life of many joys and sorrows since in the babyhood days in New Jersey, when she was left motherless. Through girlhood and maidenhood, through her married life and through her widowhood, she possessed many distinguishing characteristics, and as wife of the ninth President of the United States she has left her imprint on the world of character and life that will not be effaced and others might profitably emulate.

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